



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

A RICHMOND COUNTY CLUB—WHAT IT IS DOING AND SOME OF THE PRACTICAL RESULTS.

The farmers in the neighborhood of Bostick's Mills, Richmond county, are progressive, and appreciate the benefits arising from organization. The following extract from a letter of Mr. Joseph L. Galloway, Secretary of the Mountain Creek Farmers' Club, shows some of the practical work of that club, and how its members are being benefitted by it. Giving us a sketch of the club, after speaking of the big time they are going to have at their annual dinner on the 19th of August, he says:

"The Mountain Creek Farmers' Club was organized this year with six members, and numbers now a little over 50. Attempts had been previously made to start a club but they failed, but the organizers were determined to go on, if only with a few. The meetings were at first held fortnightly, but when busy times came, monthly. The time is spent discussing farm subjects, answering questions, &c. The purpose is to encourage farmers to make their own meat, corn, wheat, and any other supplies which can be made at home, and also to make plenty of oats and grass for working and other stock. Our arrangements about supplies brought us a difficulty. We all felt it was impossible for farmers to buy on time at prices varying from 40 to 70 per cent. over the wholesale cash price and pay in cotton at 8 to 8½ cents per lb., and not be vastly worse off at the end of the year than at the beginning. This club, therefore, appointed James A. Ingram its agent, through whom everything is bought. Every member buying must secure the agent, either by paying cash, or by a mortgage on land. The cash is then borrowed and the goods bought in bulk at the lowest wholesale cash price, and distributed here, every member buying paying exact cost price, with interest, and any necessary expense. We have a finance committee, who examine every security, and decide whether the security offered is good and sufficient. This is the scheme at present, and we are sure that every one buying through the club will save at least 40 per cent. on his year's supplies. The members are specially encouraged to use every economy and spend no more than is absolutely necessary, and also to put away the amount they save by buying through the club and pay that amount, at least, in cash towards the next year's supplies."

"The premiums on crops, though not in thorough working this year, are for the best acre in corn and cotton; the best yield of corn and cotton to the horse, and for the farm, outbuildings, tools, &c., in best condition. For the last, three committees have been appointed, the members being divided amongst them. They will go round to each farm, examine carefully and report, and another committee will visit the three best, and report which farm is in best condition. The whole report will be made as part of the proceedings at the Farmers' Dinner. We hope next year to offer premiums on the best acre in corn, cotton, wheat, oats, sweet potatoes, the best pig, milk cow, farm in best order, &c., best crop to the horse. There is no doubt that during the short time the club has been at work, it has caused all its members to be more thrifty, has made them take a greater interest in improving and making better crops, and will reduce the number of acres to the horse. We hope in the future to do better than in the past."

FARMERS' DINNER.

The Cedar Grove Farmers' Club will have a Farmers Dinner at Bevil's Mill, on Saturday the 31st

inst. Speeches will be made and a general good time is expected.

TRINITY COLLEGE CLUB—MEETING JUNE 26.—SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR WINTER CROPS.

Dr. Parker.—*Ready, ready.* There is no other word in all of our language so complete, so full, so eloquent, as this word *ready*. Did you ever look out this word in the dictionary? Let us see what Worcester says about it. He says it means prepared; prompt; not to seek; near at hand; not slow; accommodated to any design; apt; eager, &c., &c.

To have everything in complete readiness for properly seeding a crop is of paramount consideration to the farmer. Begin now with these fine seasons we are having to turn your stubble and other lands that you intended for wheat, oats, rye or barley. Sow peas if possible so as to have an abundant supply of vegetable matter in the soil; this is essential, if you intend to phosphate your fall seeding. These poor and worn fields are deficient in humus, and this must be restored, if you expect to improve your land and make a paying crop. By all means seed down in some winter grain crop or grass, or clover, all of the corn, cotton or tobacco fields you can. Don't leave them bare and naked to leach, wash and waste away by the winter and spring rains. If some growing crop occupies the soil, this plant food is held secure. It has been found by actual test of the waters running out of an under drain in fields that were naked, that the water was heavily charged with the best elements of fertility, whereas, if the land be occupied with some growing crop, the water thus tested showed scarcely a trace of fertilizing properties. In the North where the land is hard frozen and covered with snow for the greater part of the winter, there is scarcely any waste from this source, but here in the South, with our open winters, it is quite otherwise, and it is important, gentlemen, that you know these things, and be ready to be benefitted thereby.

W. H. Harris.—If clover sod, begin to plow when clover is at its greatest growth to secure seed and the greatest amount to turn under. If fallow or any other land not sowed, begin in early spring. Turn about four inches deep and subsoil as deep as your plow. About the 15th June sow some green crop—peas, sorghum or corn; and when about grown turn under. Always take the fallow harrow with you to the field and pulverize as fast as you plow. As soon as this green crop is decayed, which will be in twenty or thirty days, cross plow with gofer deep. In ten days cross break again with gofer. Never prepare more than you can manure, or have money to buy commercial fertilizers with. I could not risk mortgaging for fertilizers. It will not pay to properly cultivate land for a winter crop that produces less than ten bushels per acre. Always have clover to fallow winter crops. The above cultivation will secure a catch. The best stand of clover I ever had was from plowing four or five times, first turning under a green crop of peas and sorghum. If you cannot prepare very nearly as above better lay over for next year.

Will Robbins.—To prepare fresh stubble land for a wheat crop I cut the wheat near the ground to avoid having too much stubble in the way. Sow peas after harvesting the wheat, and plow them under with a double gofer. When the vines are sufficiently large plow them under with a two-horse plow. After decomposition cross plow with gofer deep. This mode enables us to plow with a light rain. The fallow land I plow in spring when I have good seasons and get a crop of weeds to turn under in summer. For oats I plow in the spring, and again in fall. Sow 200 lbs. fertilizer and two bushels oats to the acre. I have the best crop of oats just harvested that I ever had, put in in this way. Sow rye in Septem-

ber for soiling purposes, one and a half bushels to the acre. It will bear cutting two or three times, and beats clover for milch cows or work horses. My lot of rye paid well this season. I shall increase it next year.

A. Parker.—In this progressive age in farming the old slipshod mode must give place to thorough preparation mechanically and chemically. The condition of the soil and the demands from it force this progressive mode on us.

W. W. Andrews.—Wheat, after a good yield of corn is of doubtful propriety. To secure a good crop of oats after corn, if the corn is not lodged, sow the oats among the corn in September and run the cultivator both ways. It is not safe to sow in August. They sprout and are killed by the dry, hot weather, or boot in the fall and fall. Blast out the stumps and haul off the stones and rocks; those you can't haul dig holes and bury.

J. J. White.—Consider the land. If old fallow land, plow deep early in Spring—say May—with a two-horse turn plow, a little deeper than formerly. Turn again in August shallow, not more than two or three inches. Turn shallow again just before seeding time, and with harrow and drag make a fine, compact seed bed about two inches deep. This fine, compact seed bed is essential for an extra yield. My tests the past season satisfied me on this point. My crop just harvested is the finest I have ever had. For clover sod, cut one crop for hay. Turn thereafter as soon as you can. Plow again before seeding and prepare seed bed as above. I never risk waiting for second crop. Prefer to plow as early as I can.

D. M. PAYNE, Sec'y.

SANDY RIDGE CLUB—A FINE MEETING AND MUCH INTEREST.

MARVIN CHAPEL, JULY 3, 1886.

This Club met this afternoon at 2 o'clock, and although the farmers are behind with their work and we have had some desperate struggles with "General Green" through this section of country, we had a splendid turnout at the Club, and we believe that the farmers are beginning to mean business. The house was called to order by the President. There were no particular subjects booked for discussion at last meeting, but every member seemed to be wide awake and full of enthusiasm.

The names of Messrs. George Cox, J. M. Hunter, W. W. Clayton, M. R. Zigevar, W. L. Reich, were added to our list, making a membership of 42, and we expect to reach 50 at our next meeting.

The names of Messrs. J. H. Cox and Isaac Reich were added to the Executive Committee, making a committee of five instead of three. At our next regular meeting Mr. J. M. Hunter will give us a formula for making fertilizer. He has been manufacturing and using it himself for some time for both wheat and tobacco and says it is the best and much the cheapest fertilizer he can get. We hope that every farmer, whether a member of any club or not, will come to our next meeting (first Saturday in August) and hear Mr. Hunter upon a subject which certainly is of great importance to every farmer in this tobacco and wheat growing section.

Messrs. M. H. Ogburn, J. M. Hunter, and A. A. Styers, will give us some idea about the cheapest and best way to raise provender, and Messrs. J. H. Reich, E. J. Banner, and W. J. Peace will tell us something about raising turnips.

Our Executive Committee has called a special meeting for Saturday, July 10th, at 5 o'clock, p. m.

J. L. ARMFIELD, Sec'y.

CEDAR GROVE CLUB.

A meeting of this club was held last Saturday. Good attendance, interesting discussions and a most harmonious feeling inspired the meeting with genuine enthusiasm.

The movement for the organization of a County club was heartily endorsed. Three new members were enrolled and other applications filed. The proceedings will appear next week.

State Items.

—According to the survey, the branch road to our cotton factories will be a little over nine miles long. It will run to a point within 1½ miles of Worthville.—*Asheboro Courier*.

—Mr. Caldwell, of the Statesville Landmark, is authority for the statement that W. J. Upright, of Chambersburg township, Iredell county, has a goose 31 years old.

—Mr. Cyrus Alexander, of Paw Creek township, had some corn about ten days ago which he measured, and after 24 hours it had grown 4 inches; in 3 days 12½ inches, and at the end of the 7th day had grown 2½ feet.—*Charlotte Chronicle*.

—Mr. J. H. Mull, of Transylvania county, has left with us specimens of rich gold ores found on his lands on Carson's Creek in said county. He says the vein is an extensive one, and the promise of rich yield very encouraging.—*Asheville Citizen*.

—Seven burglaries have been perpetrated in this city within the past ten or twelve days.—A severe hail storm in Brodgen township Friday afternoon did considerable damage to cotton, but, fortunately, it was confined to a small locality.—*Goldsboro Argus*.

—Internal Revenue collections for the 5th District of N. C. for this fiscal year ending June 1886 \$841,881.97.—Internal Revenue collections for 5th District of North C. for the month of June 1886: \$64,428.15.—*Reidsville Times*.

—Mr. J. F. Brinkley, of Spring Hill, showed us Monday a block of mica which was taken from his farm, known as Doggett's, on Roanoke river, below Caledonia. It is a genuine mica of very fine quality and Mr. Brinkley says there seems to be a very large quantity of it.—*Roanoke News*.

—Gen. Deputy Smith, Boulding, Alspaugh and Keeling raided and destroyed an illicit distillery in full operation ten miles east of town last Tuesday. A white man named Jacobs was arrested, but for want of evidence he was released by U. S. Commissioner Jones next day.—*Orange County Observer*.

—We hear it stated on good authority that \$1,000,000 of Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley railroad bonds were sold yesterday in New York at ninety-five cents on the dollar. We did not learn whether these were first or second mortgage bonds, but presume that they were first mortgage.—*Wilmington Review*.

—There was a severe storm of wind, rain and hail visited Manning's township, in this county, on last Thursday evening, stripping the corn of every blade of fodder and seriously injuring the cotton. Hail stones as big as hen eggs fell. Portions of Edgecombe suffered from a similar visitation.—*Battleboro Headlight*.

—Farmers are much behind with their work and crops are badly in the grass, owing to the frequent rains.—Wheat harvest is over, and the farmers are not much encouraged since they have felt the weight of the grain. The yield will be light. The crop in this section is a poor one.—On a lot of less than one-third of an acre Capt. Graham raised this season 42 shocks of oats averaging over 5½ ft. in height. And more wonderful still, it was a volunteer crop—not a seed was sown.—*Alamance Gleaner*.

—Col. Billie Pope, the remarkable dwarf, who was 37 years old, and who weighed only 42 pounds, and stood about 2 feet 10 inches high,

died at his home in Nash county on Saturday last. He could have made a fortune had he traveled in a circus, but he was reserved in manner and shrank from public gaze, and so he died poor and comparatively unknown.—*Wilson Mirror*.

—Dr. W. T. Woody, of Chowan county, has 1,600,000 tobacco plants in a good growing condition, with few cut worms. It is all he could ask. His barns for curing are about completed.

—The new sash and blind factory opposite J. L. King & Co.'s tobacco factory, is about completed and the machinery will be put in position in a few days.—Enterprises of every description continue to rise to the surface in Greensboro. Chief among the latest is the joint stock company composed of W. E. Bevil, J. L. King, Samuel Mitchell and C. N. McAdoo, recently organized, for the manufacture of tobacco.—*Greensboro Patriot*.

—Abe Kiser, of Gaston county, of unsound mind, shouldered his gun week before last and started from home. He spent his time in wandering about through the woods and fields eating berries and leaves. When he perceived that he was discovered, he would run like a deer, and all attempts to capture him proved abortive until last Friday. When caught he was much emaciated and nearly starved to death.—*Newton Enterprise*.

—Mr. Louis Blount, who has just returned from a trip through part of Orange and Person county, informs us that the wheat crop in that section was a failure, but that the corn and tobacco crops were looking well.—Messrs. Walter and E. C. Holt are progressing very rapidly with their new cotton factory at Company Shops. Company Shops is destined to be the centre of the cotton manufacturing section. They already have six within a radius of three miles.—*Hillsboro Recorder*.

—The rainy weather has continued now for more than six weeks, and the farmers are pretty blue. Wheat standing in the fields is not sprouting much, where well shocked, but oats can hardly be cut between the rains and some of it has to be mowed. What seems to oppress the farmers most, however, is the fear that they will never be able to catch up with the grass. Grass and weeds are just about to take corn and cotton.—A note from Prof. W. E. Hidden informs us that one of the emeralds found at the mine of the Emerald and Hiddenite Mining Company, Alexander county, on the 2d ult., has resulted in a cut gem of exquisite lustre and beauty, about one-half inch square and nearly as thick. Prof. Hidden says: "It is the peer of any emerald gem yet found in the United States, and I have seen much poorer ones from the far-famed Bogota mines."—*Statesville Landmark*.

—There will be an effort made to have a public road opened from Spauigh's store on the Salisbury road to Hopewell, in Broadbay township, and from thence by New Friendship to the Salem and Lexington road.

—Mr. Alexander Vogler says that he has a field of uniform fertility, and that on a part of it was sown Kivett wheat, and on the remainder Foltz wheat. The Foltz wheat yielded double as much per acre as the Kivett.—The daisies are spreading in this vicinity to a great extent. Many meadows and wheat fields have already been injured by them, and it is feared by farmers that in a few years they will become a very serious pest to the farming interests.

—We hear much complaint that young chickens are dying and it is not certain what their disease is. One person who has made examination, says there was a small worm in the throat of each of those examined, and that by giving coperas water to those sick, the worm spoken of is removed, and the chickens get well.—*Salem Press*.